- Strengthening of Medical Colleges by providing assistance for development for Pediatric Eye Units/Low Vision Units/Retina units imparting training to Ophthalmic Surgeons from Government Hospitals/Medical Colleges in various Specialities of ophthalmology for quality eye care.
- Intensification of IEC activities to create awareness about eye care activities.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e) The target fixed under National Programme for Control of Blindness is to reduce prevalence of Blindness from 1.1% (2001—04) to 0.3% by 2020.

CGHS facilities to press correspondents

2813. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that PIB accredited press correspondents are covered under the Central Government Health Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such press correspondents are entitled for the same benefits as admissible to the Central Government employees, who once become member of CGHS, continue to have the same benefits even after retirement for life, after paying one-time fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Accredited Journalists are entitled for CGHS facilities at par with those available to General Public.

(c) No, Sir.

Procedure to establish the guardianship of mentally ill patients

2814. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties regarding establishing guardianship of mentally ill patients; and

(b) whether Government are taking any initiative to change the procedure so as to bring relief to affected persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Specific provisions have been made under Chapter VI of Mental Health Act, 1987 detailing the procedure for judicial inquisition of mentally ill persons possessing property, custody of his person and management of his property. These provisions, claimed by few as a long drawn process, have been made for the purpose of protecting the interest of mentally ill patients.

Streamlining the working of hospitals

†2815. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to streamline the working of hospitals and primary health centres under the Central Government in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of amount allocated during the current financial year and amount released so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Under National Rural Health Mission it is proposed to upgrade Primary Health Centres (PHC), sub-divisional/Sub-districts and District Hospitals. Initial funds for an amount of Rs. 20.00 lakhs per District Hospital in other than North-Eastern States and Rs. 100/- lakhs per District Hospital in North-Eastern States have been released for upgradation of District Hospitals. To ensure a degree of permanency and sustainability in achieving community participation, Rogi Kalyan Samities (RKSs) have been provided funds @ Rs. 5.00 lakhs per District Hospital and Rs. 1.00 lakh per Sub-district Hospital/Sub-divisional Hospital and PHC. Untied Funds for local health needs @ Rs. 25000/- per PHC and Annual Maintenance Grant @ Rs. 50,000/- per PHC for improvement and maintenance of physical infrastructure of PHCs has been released.

(b) and (c) State-wise release of funds under NRHM so far for the above activities is given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below). State-wise allocation of funds for 2007-08 under NRHM and Reproductive and Child Health—II flexible pool is given in the enclosed statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.